NORTHERN ISLANDER

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PRINCIPAL WILL PROVIDE A SCHOOL UPDATE
READ THE FULL STORIES ON PAGE 7

THE BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEETS CLARK GRISWALD AS THEY CELEBRATE THE FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL- PAGE 5

READ MORE ABOUT THE EMERALD ISLE IRISH FEILE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES & CRITICAL SUPPORT NEEDED

CATCH THE FULL UPDATE ON PAGES 24 & 25

THE BIDL OFFERS GREAT WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE IMPORTANCE OF READING WITH SOME AMAZING EVENTS

READ MORE ON PAGE 27

Beaver Island District Library
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BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Keeping Island History Alive
Established 1957

NORTHERN ISLANDER

is proudly owned and published by the
Beaver Island Historical Society

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I hope that you all had a safe and festive Holiday season. As I reflect back on 2023, there is an ovewhelming amount to be thankful for (See page 21 to hear from some of our islanders as to what they are grateful for). As I look to 2024, I want to thank the Historical Society for allowing me the opportunity to lead the Northern Islander as your Editor and Creative director. I am blessed to have a loving husband who adores the island as much as I do, a beautiful daughter, caring family, the perfect job, old and new friends and to be part of this amazing community.

The Historical Society procured the Northern Islander in April and we began our journey onward and upward capturing local news and sharing our rich culture through story telling with the help from our local islanders. As we continue to enhance the paper, we welcome suggestions and feedback as our goal is to deliver contextually relevant content about the island, for our subsribers and visitors by our team and our local contributors.

As you may know, we recently introduced our first annual Beaver Beacon which contains feature stories about the Arts, Culture and History of Beaver Island. We are optimistic that it will be well received and will be able to produce another version mid-year with more content and imagery telling our island stories.

This issue of the Northern Islander is dedicated to our Beaver Island Community and the heart-warming outpouring of Christmas spirit that took place here on the island. I was pleasantly overwhelmed with the immense amount of kindess, generosity, selflessness, friendship and love for one another that this community has. The Beaver Island residents and businesses ensured that every person had somewhere and something to celebrate. From the “Lighting of the Tree”, Christmas Concerts, Cookie Cantada, Caroling, BIHS Holiday Social, Christmas Coloring Contest, Visits from Mr./Mrs. Claus, COA spreading cheer, Christmas cards for senior resident living, and Christmas movies - just to name a few. Don’t take my word for it, we captured some of the magic to share with you all throughout the issue.

As we forge ahead into 2024, I will end with this - I want to profess my most sincere gratitude for your support and I am honored to call this our forever home. I wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to delivering an amazing Northern Islander to mailboxes all over the U.S.

Kind Regards,
Amy Marschner

NORTHERN ISLANDER
IT WAS A MONUMENTAL YEAR FOR THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ACQUIRING BOTH THE NORTHERN ISLANDER AND BEAVER BEACON. WE HAVE ENJOYED BRINGING THE RICH CULTURE AND HISTORY OF THE ISLAND TO BOTH SUBSCRIBERS AND VISITORS ALIKE.
AS WE MOVE INTO THE NEW YEAR, WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO THANK OUR CURRENT AND PAST ADVERTISING PARTNERS AS WITHOUT YOUR KIND SUPPORT THE NEWSPAPER WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE STILL WITH US AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO OUR SEASONAL PARTNERS TO ONCE AGAIN JOIN THE NORTHERN ISLANDER FAMILY.
BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Print Shop Perspective

Since 1957, The Beaver Island Historical Society has been working to keep Beaver Island History Alive! We advance this goal through a mission of preserving and sharing the unique history of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

Happy New Year! We at the Beaver Island Historical Society have so much to be thankful for. We are especially thankful for being a part of an awesome community that has enriched the Beaver Island Historical Society and empowered us to have a remarkable year and advance our mission of Preserving and Sharing the Unique History of Beaver Island and the Archipelago.

As I reflect over the past twelve months of the Society's accomplishments the following projects stand out:

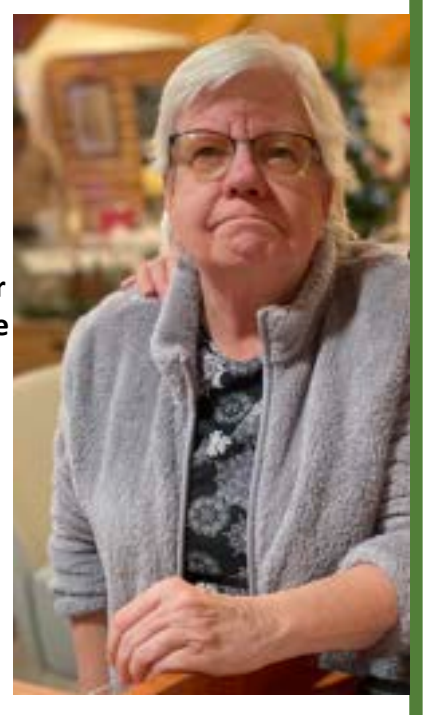
- **Northern Islander Newspaper** – We took action to preserve our local journalism, after all, history starts with today's activities!
- **Beaver Beacon Magazine** – We rebranded the Beaver Beacon to be a full color, glossy magazine about the arts & culture of Beaver Island and the Archipelago. Each semiannual edition features stories about historical events and local Beaver Island art.
- **Pollinator Garden** – a pollinator garden was installed between the Print Shop Museum and Daddy Franks. The garden helps to preserve the natural environment and offers opportunities for our community and guests to stroll through the garden or rest and enjoy local flowering plants with a little mix of sustainability (herbs and vegetables).
- **Jobs for Michigan Graduates** – a unique program partnership with Michigan Works that helped our high school students get work experiences.
- **Museum Week**- A Film Screening Series – this past year we featured a short film series honoring Native Americans, maritime history and public art.
- **Kids Camp** – This year we partnered with the Beaver Island Community Center and doubled our capacity for youth engagement. The camp has been very popular and will continue in 2024.
- **Beaver Head Lighthouse** – Our volunteers really made a difference painting the grounds and exterior! If you have not been by the lighthouse recently, make a plan to visit the next time you are on the island! We also hosted another year of field school for the EMU Historic Preservation program. They repaired the mortar at the base of the tower. More to come in 2024.
- **Awesome Holiday Social** – We finished the year with our first Holiday Social. The Museum was decorated with eight holiday trees, lights galore and all the trimmings. About 60 people gathered and enjoyed the holiday spirit. We hope to offer this event again next year!

Once again thank you for supporting the Historical Society. Without your support none of this would have been possible.

Lori Taylor-Blitz
Executive Director
Beaver Island Historical Society

Meet Maureen Cull

By Cheryl Kern



Maureen has been a docent at the Print Shop Museum since 2002. Her dedication to the Historical Society sets precedent as she volunteers for many of our events through the year. You can always count on her smile as you walk through our doors.

She also has worked as a waitress, a home care worker, and as a messenger in Chicago before there were computers. While working as a messenger she was a member of SEIU and met Barrack Obama before he was president.

Maureen was born in Grand Rapids to Larry and Nancy Cull and first came to the Island in 1957. She was 2 weeks old and slept in a suitcase on that occasion. Larry was born, raised and died in the house next to the Print Shop Museum. She grew up in Chicago but came here frequently throughout her life, permanently moving here in 2009. Her great-grand parents were Dennis and Mary (O'Donnell) Cull who came to Beaver Island around 1878. Her grandparents were Mike and Mabel (Connaghan) Cull.

Maureen is interested in genealogy, listens to 60's and 70's music and is an artist. She loves the island and has fond memories of playing here as a kid. She loved the freedom she had here to run and play in a safe environment. She says her roots are here.

TOWNSHIP NEWS

By Maria Dal Pra & Bobbi Welke

Joint communications from Peaine Township and St. James Supervisors:

The Silent Culprit: Unveiling the Environmental Damage Caused by Tires

Introduction:

In the global pursuit of sustainability, environmental concerns have become increasingly prevalent. While attention is often focused on high-profile issues such as deforestation and air pollution, there's a silent and pervasive culprit that often escapes notice – tires. These seemingly innocuous rubber components of our vehicles play a significant role in causing environmental damage, from production to disposal. This article aims to shed light on the less-discussed environmental impact of tires.

Production and Raw Materials:

The journey of environmental degradation begins with the production of tires. The manufacturing process requires vast amounts of natural resources, including rubber, petroleum, and various chemicals. The cultivation of rubber trees often leads to deforestation, habitat loss, and biodiversity decline. Moreover, the extraction and processing of petroleum for tire production contribute to air and water pollution, further exacerbating the environmental toll.

Microplastics and Tire Wear:

Once tires hit the road, a less visible yet highly problematic issue arises – tire wear. As vehicles traverse surfaces, tires gradually wear down, releasing tiny particles known as microplastics. These microplastics, consisting of rubber and other additives, find their way into the air, soil, and water, posing a threat to ecosystems and human health.

In urban environments, the dust generated by tire wear becomes a significant source of particulate matter in the air. These particles can carry harmful chemicals and heavy metals, contributing to respiratory problems and other health issues in humans. When washed off roads by rain, tire-derived microplastics contaminate water bodies, potentially affecting aquatic life and water quality.

Proper tire inflation is imperative to increasing the life of the tire by increasing the time it takes for tire degradation and toxic chemicals to reach the environment. Proper inflation also reduces the risk of sidewall blowouts and increases gas mileage. By checking tire inflation monthly, safety risks and environmental damage are decreased while tire life and mileage are increased.

Water Pollution:

Tire particles are not the only concern; the chemical additives present in tires can leach into the environment. As tires degrade, substances like zinc oxide, polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and benzothiazole are released into the environment, contaminating water sources. These chemicals can be harmful to aquatic organisms, disrupting ecosystems and threatening biodiversity.

Landfills and Disposal:

The end-of-life phase of tires also poses environmental challenges. Improper disposal of tires, whether in landfills or illegal dumping sites, results in long-lasting environmental consequences. Tires take centuries to decompose, and as they break down, they release pollutants into the surrounding soil and water. Furthermore, tire piles can become breeding grounds for pests and mosquitoes, contributing to public health concerns. In some cases, tire fires, whether accidental or intentional, release harmful toxins into the air, posing immediate risks to human health and exacerbating air pollution.

Beaver Island Transfer Station and Tires:

Removing tires from the island is like any other trash or recycling; it costs money. Over the course of a year, the island receives between 2-4 tires per day, meaning tires brought to the island amount to between 730 and 1460 tires a year. But, in a given year, the transfer station does not receive for disposal the equivalent volume so disposal is occurring by other means that indicates a potential threat to the environment on the island. Beaver Island Transfer Station accepts used and retired tires for between $5 and $10, depending on size and whether the rims are still intact. The transfer station uses a dedicated area to store used tires due to the various threats that exist from unmanaged or uncontained toxic materials. Every two years, Charlevoix County receives a grant to assist in removing tires from the island. Although the concern and risk is never fully removed, properly disposing of tires as opposed to improper disposal can have an immediate impact on the environment and reduction of risk to the community.

Conclusion:

Addressing the environmental damage caused by tires requires a multifaceted approach. From sustainable tire production practices to the development of eco-friendly alternatives, the tire industry must embrace innovation to mitigate its impact on the environment. Consumers also play a crucial role by choosing eco-friendly tire options, maintaining proper tire inflation, and ensuring responsible tire disposal.

As we strive for a greener and more sustainable future on the island, it's essential to recognize and address the often-overlooked environmental consequences of everyday items like tires. As island residents, it's important to do our part to minimize damage that can be caused by not properly disposing of tires. Only through collective awareness and action can we pave the way for a more environmentally friendly road ahead.

BEAVER ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY FIRST ANNUAL HOLIDAY SOCIAL

By Amy Marschner

The BIHS proudly hosted our first of “soon to be many” Holiday Socials at the Print Shop Museum on December 16. The team spared no expense on festive decorations found at the Island Treasure Resale Shop, from generous donors and of course our local Powers Hardware Store.

A few highlights from our event:

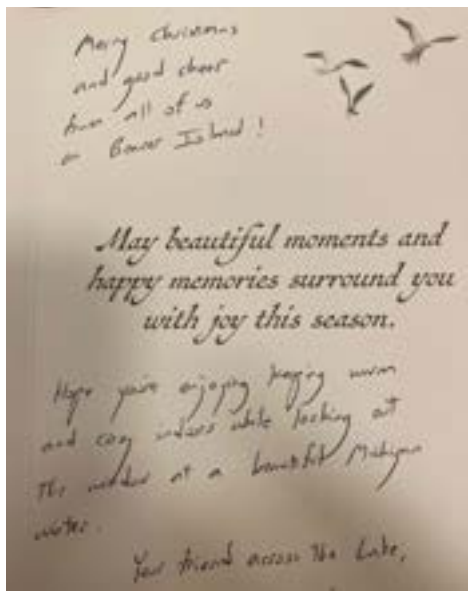
- Eight custom trees
- Ornaments from our students at the BICS
- Thousands of twinkle lights
- Hundreds of feet of garland
- Family holiday collections from our islanders
- Music from Cynthia Prior
- Our own carriage buggy availble for family pictures
- Delicious catering by Laura Green
- Guest appearance by Mr & Mrs Santa Claus

We would like to thank all those who made this evening possible including our staff at the Historical society for the amazing decorations and event planning, our generous and kind donors with treats and items for the Silent Auction and of course all of you who came out to share good company, food and spirits. We hope you all had as much fun as we did and look forward to next year!

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CREATING HOLIDAY SMILES

By Amy Marschner

For the past two years, Beaver Island has helped to spread joy to those in nursing homes by providing Christmas cards. The community gathers together to personalize the holiday message with each holiday greeting. Our goal is to bring a smile to someone in need during the holiday season and to remind them they are not alone.



We sent cards to Grandvue, Boulder Park, and Charlevoix AmericanHouse which reaches about 200 seniors.

The honor society students played a role and helped with the effort of the cards to demonstrate their commitment to the cause and giving back.

Our whole community (both on island and off) donates blank cards, to such a generous extent that it looks like we will do this again next year.

If you are interested in participating next year in this worthy act of kindness then please reach out as everyone could use a little happiness in life, especially during the holiday season.

This is the 2022 handoff of cards to a Grandvue employee

BI PERFORMING ARTS ALLIANCE – SOME FACTS THAT SURPRISE

By Matt Thomas, Executive Director BIPAA

You may have attended the Candlelit Christmas Concert on December 10 at the Community Center. We are delighted that so many people took time out of their busy holiday schedules to join us for some holiday music and readings. But did you know our five talented artists – four singers and a pianist – also made an appearance at the Beaver Island School on December 11? During their visit, the school's youngest students took part in a question-and-answer session and sang along to some holiday favorites like "Rudolph the Red- Nosed Reindeer" and "Frosty the Snowman". "It was a great opportunity for the kids," said Principal Wil Cwikiel.

Both events highlight one of the major goals of our organization: community involvement beyond our presentation of Baroque on Beaver each summer. We know that for most residents, time is short and work hours long during those summer months. We will work to present more of these types of events for the benefit of the island such as the past two Fourth of July celebrations which featured our brass players performing prior to the fireworks at Jewell Gillespie Park. During Baroque (Monday July 29 through Saturday August 3) we will again feature free events like Brass on the Grass at Whiskey Point Lighthouse and the Donegal Bay Winds at Beaver Island Gallery. You may also be surprised to know that any child under the age of 15 can attend our ticketed Baroque Week events for free when accompanied by a paid ticketed adult.

Please contact info@baroqueonbeaver.org for more details.

EDUCATION CORNER: EVERY MONTH LET'S LEARN ABOUT WHAT IS HAPPENING AT OUR SCHOOL FROM OUR FACULTY AND STUDENTS

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SPREADING HOLIDAY CHEER- BICS CHRISTMAS EVENTS

By Olive Ledbetter and Zia Duffing

Beaver Island students spread some holiday cheer! Every year, Beaver Island Community School puts on activities for the students and community here on Beaver Island. This year, our staff at BICS, along with several community volunteers, have worked hard to prepare two annual activities- Santa's Workshop and Christmas Caroling. Santa's Workshop is where students can buy presents for family members, pets, etc. The second event is the annual Christmas Caroling where teachers and parents take our entire school, all 57 of us, to different homes to spread some holiday cheer!!

The Santa's Workshop event starts at 8:30 AM inside the school gym. Our wonderful volunteers and staff buy gifts from Dollar Tree for students to buy and ship them over to the school. When the volunteers are done setting up tables, they start sending students in to shop for their families. Every item costs $1.25, and kids buy gifts independently with their money. Each table has a different theme. The tables include the pets, toddlers, parent tables, and more. After shopping, students bring their cash to the checkout to pay for their gifts. After paying, the student brings their gifts over to the wrapping station. After their gifts are wrapped, the volunteers give them a bag and return them to class. Eli Pietras, a 3rd grader at Beaver Island Community School says, "I really like Santa's Workshop because it gives me an opportunity to buy gifts for my family." Xandra Duffing, an 8th grader at BICS states "I think Santa's Workshop can help build stronger relationships with our friends and family even with a small gift."

Our second activity, **Christmas Caroling,** is one of the most meaningful events our school puts on. Every year, our entire school drives - escorted by teachers and parents who have volunteered- to different houses, mostly to our elders here on the island, and sing about four to five Christmas songs at each stop. We always make sweets or cookies and give them to the elders after we sing. It may not be a lot, but it can certainly bring joy to all, those young and old. Charlie Chadwick, a 4th grader at Beaver Island Community School, says "I think Christmas Caroling is important to the people we sing to because it can brighten up their day and holiday season and make it a little better." Mr. Adam Richards, BICS's secondary social studies teacher, states that "Christmas caroling with nearly the entire school is one of the sweetest events of the year. We harmonize our voices and we harmonize our care for the community."

In conclusion, Beaver Island Community School puts on Christmas activities and celebrations, to make our school a better environment, to celebrate Christmas as a school, as well as a community, and, of course, to spread holiday cheer. To all of our volunteers, thank you all so very much! None of this could ever be possible without you, and to our faculty and staff at Beaver Island Community School, thank you for organizing all these wonderful events!

As students, we find this very enjoyable and unique, since this is something not all schools can do. Thank you again -volunteers and BICS staff- for making this possible.

BICS FALL FACILITY UPGRADES

By Wil Cwikiel

BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Thanks to advocacy by Beaver Island Community School and the other most remote and isolated public schools in Michigan, BICS received additional funding when the final state school aid budget was passed last summer. The school board decided to spend the bulk of this additional one-time money on facility upgrades, including a new school vehicle, repairs to the gym ceiling, and a new floor for the gym. In addition to these upgrades, a collaborative effort with Merit, the school's internet service provider, resulted in improved internet service to the school.

Since the gymnasium is a focal point of school activities and is often used for community events, replacing the floor and refurbishing the ceiling was a top priority. Kerry Smith, BICS athletic director, noted that, "A new gym floor had been discussed for the past ten years, and we are fortunate to have these extra funds to finally make it happen. The new floor not only looks great, but provides a more safe and much better playing surface for our athletes." The Islanders are hosting their first home game of the season on **Friday, January 5th , at 5:30.** All Islanders are invited to come and cheer on the Islanders!

Beaver Island Community School receives its internet services as part of a collaboration with Central Michigan University and the Merit Network (an independent nonprofit internet service provider governed by a Michigan's public universities). Due to some ongoing issues with the microwave dishes that delivers our internet (the signal took four "hops" before it got to the school) and an early November lightning strike, our internet service became very unreliable. Thanks to the support of our partners at Merit, we were able to get a small crew over to the Island in short order and remove two hops by laying temporary fiber from the Font Lake Tower to the school. Since the temporary fiber was laid in late November, our students and teachers have been enjoying more reliable internet service. We are pursuing grant funding opportunities to pay for a permanent fiber installation to connect with the future underwater fiber cable.

As we close out the calendar year, the faculty and staff of Beaver Island Community School would like to extend our deep gratitude for the support provided to this school by the community. **Happy Holidays!**

SENIOR TRADITION- THE PERFECT TREE

By Wil Cwikiel

For decades, the Seniors at Beaver Island Community School have ventured into the wilds of Beaver Island to secure and decorate a tree to bring holiday cheer to the school. Longtime Superintendent Kitty McNamara said that she couldn't remember exactly when the tradition started, but it was when she was the principal. "Originally, it was the BICS Student Council who talked about how it would be nice to have a Christmas Tree to build school spirit, and the seniors stepped up to make it happen," Kitty said. The members of the BICS senior class have been doing it ever since. Thank you to the Broder Family for donating this year's tree. If you would like to donate a tree in the future, contact Wil Cwikiel so he can coordinate with next year's seniors and keep the tradition going! Happy Holidays to All Islanders!

NEWS FROM THE BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY CENTER

December was a full month at your Community Center, with two Christmas concerts, a one-man performance of Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol', visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus for the kids, BICS Christmas Carolers, holiday-themed art classes, and a host of movies, exercise classes, COA programs, and more.

With the holidays over and a new year begun, we continue to offer a full plate of programs in January for the wintering community (and the occasional off-season visitor) at the BIC Center. Check out the Community Calendar at biccenter.org for more details, but in the meantime, here's an overview:

- Pickleball happens four times a week in our auditorium, including Monday evening
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise programs happen on Tuesday and Friday mornings
- COA adds a Cardio Drumming class on Tuesdays
- COA Bingocize and Bingo take place on Wednesdays
- COA Chair Yoga and Senior Tai Chi on Thursdays
- Keep an eye out for a COA Special Luncheon on the 24th
- Afternoon session of Trivia on the 27th
- Free Senior+Vets Coffee and Doughnuts on Friday mornings
- Double-feature movies on Saturdays

Throw in some public-open meetings by local organizations like the BIA, BI Telecom Advisory Committee, and more, and there's plenty to stop in for at your Community Center. Stay tuned to our website and social media pages for more current updates on programs and events, and we'll see you there!

C3F Announces the Graduation of Three Board of Trustees Members

By Sara Ward

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) would like to acknowledge three graduating Board of Trustees members for their six years of dedication and service. This year, John Doskoch, Don Jess, and Fred Malpass will retire their seats, allowing new representation for the regions they represented. Each completed their service on The Board and helped to consistently strengthen and improve C3F.

Each served during a time of change – both at our Community Foundation and in the world. They provided leadership during the unprecedented experience of the COVID 19 pandemic, which required continuous shifting and learning. They oversaw a transition in leadership when long-time President, Chip Hansen, retired after 13 years. They supported new President, Sara Ward, as she set a new vision for the future of C3F. During their tenure, they approved more than $13.7 million in grants and scholarships and served with others on the Board, on behalf of and for the benefit of the entire community.

C3F is a nonprofit organization whose operations are overseen by a 15-member Board of Trustees, who offer governance, guidance, expertise, financial accountability, and transparency. Trustees volunteer their time and receive no financial compensation for their service. Members represent all the geographic regions of Charlevoix County, including Beaver Island, and can serve up to two consecutive three-year terms.

Current Board of Trustees Chair, Monica Peck, remembers their service this way, “Don served on the Distribution Committee, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee, and served as Board Chair in 2021. He brought a community-oriented perspective, common sense, a genuine smile, and good questions to every meeting. Fred served on the Distribution Committee, Executive Committee, and Finance Committee, and served as Board Chair in 2022 and as the Chair of the Investment Committee since it was established in 2022. Fred has a generous heart, abundant skills and abilities, and a dedication that has made a difference for the Community Foundation. John served on the Distribution Committee initially, but his membership on the Finance and Investment Committees has been critical for the Community Foundation. His deep knowledge of the complicated stock market space, and his kindness and commitment, have had equally important impacts.”

Established in 1992 by a group of civic leaders, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation is a charitable organization dedicated to improving and enhancing life for all who live in the area.

C3F accepts gifts of all sizes and for many purposes. Those contributions are professionally managed to generate income that is used to make grants supporting worthwhile programs, projects, and initiatives right here at home. Currently, more than 325 separate funds make up the Community Foundation, each one created by an individual, family, business, or nonprofit agency. With current assets of $55 million, the Community Foundation has made grants totaling more than $30 million since it began.

For more information about the Community Foundation is available by calling (231) 536-2440, or visiting the organization’s website, www.c3f.org.

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BIRHC 2024 PROGRAM UPDATE

By Ann Partridge

Grants Awarded: A 3rd consecutive grant has been awarded to the center by Beaver Island's Lodge #2886 of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks. The grant underwrites the continuation of the center's very successful program of providing a free dental exam, cleaning, and x-rays for all Island children of school age. In addition, a matching grant has been secured from The Richard J. and Frances B. Swiat Foundation of Northport, Michigan. These two grants, thanks to the work of Lori Taylor Blitz, will fully cover the costs for all eligible students who elect to have a thorough dental checkup.

Aging in Place: 48% of the BI population is over 65, 18% are over 70, and 15% are over 80. Aging in place in a rural and remote location, such as Beaver Island, comes with a number of challenges, for studies show rural communities are able to provide fewer senior services than are available in more populated areas. One of the most highly valued senior care services that has not been available on the island for some time is hospice care. Beginning in the spring of 2024 professionally trained hospice care will once again be available on the island. The aim of this renewed service is to allow people to maintain control over their lives, live with comfort and dignity, and feel supported in their final days while on their island.

The managing director and members of the executive board have been in discussions with a variety of public, non-profit and for-profit agencies about enhancing senior home care, specifically care that provides seniors help with everyday activities like bathing and dressing, meal preparation, and household tasks to enable independence and safety. This type of care is frequently called non-medical care, home health aide services, senior care, homemaker care, assistive care, or companion care. There are a number of hurdles that must be cleared and discussions on aging-in-place services are expected to continue well into 2024.

Public agencies have indicated a for-profit agency is the way to go. Unfortunately, a for-profit agency located in Charlevoix County indicated they did not see the opportunity as viable. Why? They determined it was not cost effective to send staff over. The work is not something that can be done in a day trip; the pool of seniors seeking help is modest; and there are the matters of higher travel costs and of supervising and overseeing staff from afar.

The BIRHC is developing proposals for grant funding aimed at creating a startup program to establish a pool of trained caregivers and the regulatory infrastructure required. Grant applications are expected to be submitted in the spring.

BEAVER ISLAND RURAL HEALTH CENTER

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GOOD HEALTH & GOOD LIFE

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www.biruralhealth.org

EASTERN MICHIGAN HELPS TO PRESERVE BEAVER ISLAND

By Nancy Bryk, Professor, Historic Preservation

This was Eastern Michigan University's second field school at Beaver Island. In December, 2021, Lori Taylor-Blitz, a 2015 graduate of Eastern Michigan University's Graduate Program in Historic Preservation, invited our program to come to Beaver Island to work on the Beaver Head Lighthouse as well as work in the Beaver Island Historical Society's collections. While at first it seemed like a stretch for us financially, Lori was able to assist us with funding for our students' stay at CMU Biological Station. With support from Kevin Shepard, County Administrator for Charlevoix County, we were able, once again, to hire Alec Jerome, Director of Facilities Management at The Henry Ford (Dearborn, Mich.) as the field school manager. We are so grateful to Lori Taylor-Blitz and Kevin Shepard for their tireless work to bring us to this extraordinary island. Additionally, an alumna and her husband, Sally Bund (and Ian Bund), who love lighthouses and Michigan maritime history, provided funding to bring over and house a contract mason, Mike Hipes. Mike led our team in learning mortar repair; he and Alec's team repaired masonry cracks on Beaver Head Lighthouse tower. Mike Hipes' employer, Grunwell Cashero (Detroit area) paid Mike his daily rate while he worked with us—they were delighted to support this restoration work. What a tremendous group effort it was to get the mortar repaired!

Prof. Nancy Bryk and Alec Jerome created a rigorous schedule for our visit, included on the following page. We prepped for the visit by uploading primary and secondary sources, as well as historical photos, about Beaver Head Lighthouse. About half of the students anticipated that they would be working on mortar repair on the tower of Beaver Head Lighthouse and were given appropriate readings about that work.

This year's field school class was small, just eleven students. At our orientation in Ypsilanti in early May, students learned what each team would be doing on-site and then chose which team they wanted to join. They had two choices: working with Prof. Nancy Bryk in writing a new label for the lighthouse, and inventorying the artifacts in the large barn in Heritage Park; or assisting with mortar repair at Beaver Head Lighthouse and continue repairs on the porch at the lighthouse. Six students chose to work with Alec, and five with Nancy.

By Alec Jerome, Contract Field School Manager

This year's hands-on team from the Eastern Michigan University (EMU) Historic Preservation program was once again focused on the most pressing issues facing the Beaver Head lighthouse. Three core areas for preservation activities included the front porch, tuckpointing of the Lighthouse tower base, and proactive measurement of lantern room windows for potential upcoming work in a subsequent season.

Although it could not be completed during the week on-site, the team did take the opportunity to assess and review building conditions and take measurements of Plexiglass panels in the lantern room. After several years of service and commensurate scratching and UV degradation, these panels are recommended for replacement. New glass will promote visitor satisfaction for the many people that make their way to the top of the tower for the remarkable view. All window openings were measured from students with a safety harness to ensure safe working conditions. Hopefully, this may be an opportunity for a future field school crew to replace.

Other activities concentrated on sections of both front and side porches, which had rotten boards and presented an unsafe condition for entry into the building. Upon review, some areas under the side walls had been left unaddressed due to the difficulty of repair. The hands-on teams evaluated levels of rot degradation to develop a course of action and decided to jack up a section of the porch to allow for better access for removal of boards and to complete repairs. All porch flooring was removed to assess the condition of structural deck framing materials on each porch. While there was no significant deterioration on either porch's framing, construction methodology analysis led to the discovery of relatively new construction for the porches. No materials associated with the period of significance for the lighthouse were present. The floorboards were replaced with local Douglas fir for rot resistance and durability. All newly introduced porch decking was nailed through the tongue for hidden fastening. The EMU team removed previously applied face nailed boards. Each repair section was back primed and painted for preserving the repairs against weather conditions.

The greatest amount of time during the week focused on exterior masonry repair. Field school students, the Beaver Island Historical Society, and Charlevoix trustees had previously identified this area as a high priority. This was iIn conjunction with Preservation alumna and Director of Preservation at Edsel and Eleanor Ford House in Grosse Pointe, Mich, for this donation.

This mortar was used to replace the decades of mortar and cementitious material that had been used in preview repairs to the structure. EMU field school students applied multiple lifts of material to get the mortar joints to an appropriate profile and brushed back the mortar joints to match the original joint treatment. In order for the mortar to set properly, the mortar was kept wetted down for five days in order to ensure proper transference of the mortar. All stones bricks and mortar which were structurally intact were left in place for a future effort. The repairs tried to address areas of infiltration and the likelihood of additional damage to the structure.

We anticipate that we will return in summer 2025 to complete the mortar repair on the lake-side (east side) of the lighthouse tower; it is quite likely this will be all the work we do in summer 2025 so all mortar is repaired during our visit. Mike Hipes has already agreed to return and students are already making plans to return!

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BINGO NIGHT
CABARET NIGHT
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JANUARY 26
JANUARY 27
FEBUARY 23
FEBUARY 24
MARCH 22
MARCH 23
APRIL 26
APRIL 27
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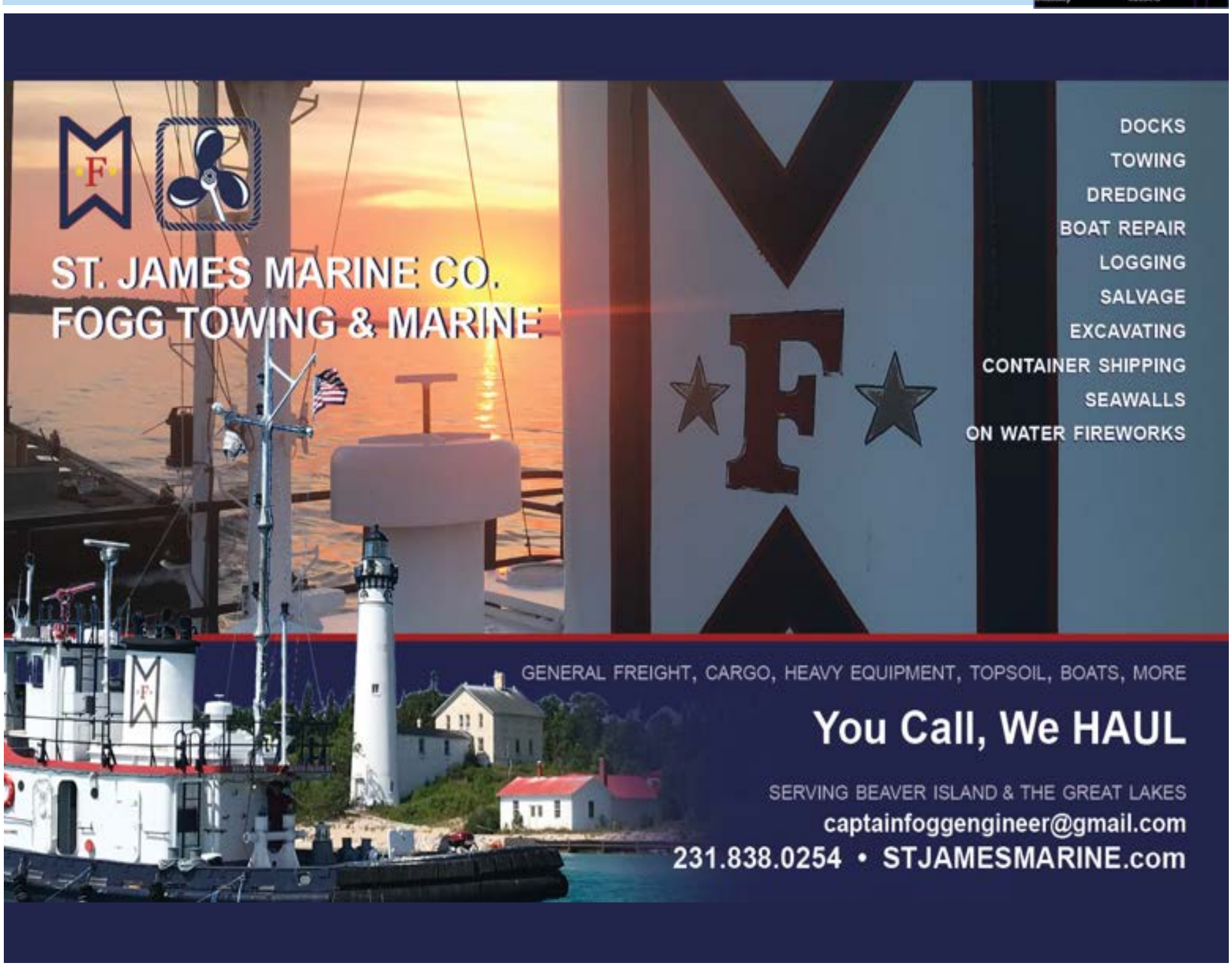
Saturday	9:00AM-1:00PM
Sunday	Closed



STORIES FROM THE FRONT PORCH- DELIVERED FROM ARUBA

By Michelle LaFreniere

It's December 13th. My deadline for submitting articles to the editor is the 15th. The problem is, I am in Aruba. 18 miles from Venezuela. 12 degrees from the equator. (OK, it's not REALLY a problem) I've decided to tell you a tiny bit about my family history and my cousin, Judy. I am a LaFreniere. My Great-Grandpa Nels had 9 children. All but 3 have descendants living on the island. Basically, we're everywhere. The Wojans, the Green's, the McDonough's , the Tritsch's, The LoDico's, Joanie LaFreniere, her brothers Mark and his family, Alvin and Glen, Loretta Slater, the Pike family, Kevin and Joe McDonough and their families, Pam Grassmick, Jeannie Gillespie, The Hodgsons, the Robert's, my brother's family. I could continue for days, but you get it. There are lots of us.

The only ones with no descendants are Bussy who had no children, Sophia Jr who died in infancy, and Patrick. His family all moved away. His son Johnny gave me 3 of the best friends of my childhood. He had other children, but Jeanette, Judy, and Patty were regular summer visitors. They were something I looked forward to every year. I loved them all so much. The only one left is Judy, and we are close to this day. We didn't lack things to do then, and we don't know. It is her that I am in Aruba with. In childhood, we swung for hours at the "big swing". It was nothing more than a huge rope with a knot in the end. The Cole boys got us an old wooden spool that once housed an electric cable. The big thrill was that one person would jump from the platform and hang on for dear life. Every time the swing would come back, another person would jump on. We tried to break records daily. We walked to my grandpa's store for candy. We played shuffleboard at the Shamrock. We spent lots of time at the beach, but, our real joy was that big swing. The Cole Boys, my brother and I, and our cousins, ' Beaver John's ' girls.

Our adventures now are usually a little bit more reserved. Not always. Most winters we go on a cruise. Judy does all the planning, and I tag along. Last year she convinced me to nearly leap to my death. That may be a bit melodramatic. I was terrified and that is not exaggerating at all. I jumped into the 'Blue Hole' in Jamaica. It was a gigantic swirling pool of water with waterfalls feeding it and currents that were crazy. I had to take my hearing aids off, of course, and that alone disoriented me. I wore a life vest as I am not a good swimmer. The guide told me when I came up to let the current carry me to the rope across the river, and then go under the rope. Either I didn't hear him or didn't understand him, but when I went under the rope, I let go. Remember those crazy currents I told you about? Yeah. I went sailing down the river over polished rocks. I had to be rescued. I was pretty embarrassed.

Last summer, Judy decided we should rent a jet ski and ride all the way around the island. It sounded like great fun to me. We went and talked to Paul, looked at the weather, and decided that out of the two days I had off, the next day would be better in terms of both wind and weather. The trouble was, the next day turned out to be no better, worse even, but it was my last day off and Judy really really wanted to do it. I couldn't let her go alone. We made a plan to go around the north shore and down the west side. We thought it would be better that way, and it probably was. Paul told us to come back if it looked like it was getting too rough. I think Judy must've thought he said 'Give it all ya got!'

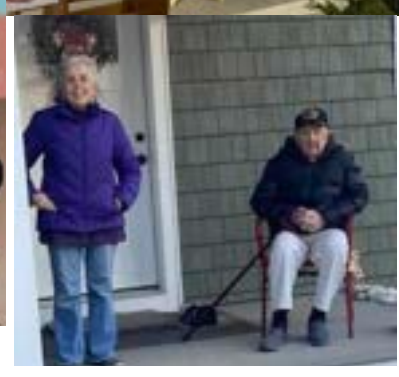
We rounded the North shore of the island, all was sort of well for a few minutes. We hit Donegal Bay and the waves were huge. We contemplated pulling ashore at Lisa Gillespie's cottage, but then remembered she had guests. We pressed on, just sure that around the next point, the waters would calm. They never did. Every point seemed to be a little crazier. The wind and the waves were coming at us from different directions all the time. At one point we had waves coming at us from three different directions. Neither of us had ever seen that before. Sometimes I was sure she was going to lose me off the back. I clung to her life vest like no other. My hands were clenched so tight that I thought they would never be able to straighten out again. Still, we pressed on. It was fun to see houses I recognized from the water. We laughed so hard so many times. A few times we just had to stop for a second to catch our breath. When we neared Beaver Head lighthouse I said to Judy look up to your left, you will see the lighthouse! She looked and in a shocked tone said, That's at the SOUTH end.. we still had a way to go.

We survived our journey. We still laugh about it. Paul told us we were legends! We do other fun things too, not as crazy, but fun nonetheless. We usually drag our cousin Rach Becker along on the more sane ones. She still thinks we are crazy, but she obliges. We are trying to visit every public beach on the island. Trying to hike every trail. In all of my 57 years, I still haven't hiked them all. Another adventure last summer was trying to find our dad's childhood fort we heard so much about growing up. We borrowed a metal detector and set out for the woods where we thought it was. We found some cool things. An antique fishing reel, some old paint cans, the foundation to what we think was an old grotto. Rach just shakes her head at us. We finally asked Loretta at happy hour. We were 2 blocks off. It's our luck. We will be back to Ft. Lauderdale on Sunday, and back to Michigan about midnight. I will think of our many adventures often and with a smile on my face. Thanks for dragging me along, Judy. I love you to pieces.

P.S. The Chamber of Commerce at the BIC Center has wonderful trail maps. Be sure to get one and make sure you tell someone where you are going if you decide to check out the trails, it is easy to get lost on the island.

Photo Credits: BICC, Amy Marschner, Lori-Taylor-Blitz, Deb Robert, Lonnie Allen

HAPPY HOLIDAYS



NORTHERN ISLANDER

JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 • **5pm** All You Can Eat Pizza and Salad • **5:30pm** Pickleball	**2** • **9am** Talking Threads • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program • **6 pm** AA Meeting	**3** • **9am** Peaine Township Planning Commision • **1pm** COA Bingo • **1pm** St. James Finance & Admin Committee • **3:30** Facilities Committee Meeting • **5:30pm** BICS COTW	**4** • **10:00 am** Pickleball • **10am** Senior Tai Chi • **10am** Women's Bible Study • **11am** COA Chair Yoga • **5pm** Burger & Beer • **6pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting • **7pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**5** • **8am** Senior+Vets Coffee & Donuts • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**6** • **1pm** Lego Club • **6 pm** AA Meeting
7 • **10am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship • **12:1 5pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**8** • **11am** Bingocize • **5pm** All you can eat Pizza & Salad • **5:30pm** Pickleball • **6:30pm** School Board Meeting	**9** • **9am** Talking Threads • **10am** COA Cardio Drumming • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30am** Arthritis Exercise Program • **12pm** BI Transportation Authority Meeting • **5:30pm** Peaine Township Board Meeting • **6pm** AA Meeting	**10** • **11am** Bingocize • **11am** Mexican Food Day • **1pm** COA BINGO	**11** • **10am** COA Chair Yoga • **10am** Pickleball • **10am** Women's Bible Study • **11am** Senior Tai Chi • **5pm** Burger & Beer • **5:30pm** St. James Township Special Meeting • **6pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting • **7pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**12** • **8am** Senior Vets Coffee & Donuts • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program	**13** • **1pm** Lego Club • **4pm Movie:** Chicken Run: Dawn of the Nugget • **6pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting • **7pm Movie:** Priscilla
14 • **10am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship • **12:1 5pm** Sunday Mass at 12:15	**15** • **11am** Bingocize • **5pm** All you can eat Pizza & Salad • **5:30pm** Pickleball	**16** • **9am** Talking Threads • **10am** COA Cardio Drumming • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30am** Arthritis Exercise Program • **1:30pm** BI Waste Management Committee • **4pm** BIA Board Meeting • **6pm** AA Meeting	**17** • **11am** Mexican Food Day • **11am** St. James Township Public Works Committee Meeting • **1pm** COA BINGO	**18** • **10am** COA Chair Yoga • **10am** Pickleball • **10am** Women's Bible Study • **11am** Senior Tai Chi • **4:30pm** BI Telecommunication Advisory Meeting • **5pm** BIDL Board Meeting • **5pm** Burger & Beer • **6pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting • **7pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**19** • **8am** Senior Vets Coffee & Donuts • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30 am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program • **12pm** Hoop Shoot District- Virtual @ BICS	**20** • **1pm** Lego Club • **4pm Movie:** Trolls Band Together • **6pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting • **7pm Movie:** Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes
21 • **10am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship • **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass	**22** • **11am** Bingocize • **5pm** All You Can Eat Pizza & Salad • **5:30pm** Pickleball	**23** • **9am** Talking Threads • **10am** Pickleball • **10am** COA Cardio Drumming • **10:30am** Arthritis Exercise Program • **6pm** Beaver Island AA	**24** • **11am** Mexican Food Day • **12pm** COA Special Lunch • **1pm** COA BINGO	**25** • **10am** Women's Bible Study • **10am** COA Chair Yoga • **10am** Pickleball • **11am** Senior Tai Chi • **5pm** Burger & a Beer • **6pm** Beaver Island AA Meeting • **7pm** Euchre Night at WPBC	**26** • **8am** Senior Vets Coffee & Donuts • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program • **6:30pm** BIHS Bingo	**27** • **12pm Movie:** Lord of the Rings Marathon: The Fellowship of the Ring • **1pm** Lego Club • **2:30 pm** Daytime Trivia • **4pm Movie:** Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers • **6pm** BI AA Meeting • **6:30pm** BIHS Cabaret Night • **8pm** Movie Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
28 • **10am** Beaver Island Christian Church Worship • **12:15 pm** Sunday Mass	**29** • **11am** Bingocize • **5pm** All You Can Eat Pizza & Salad • **5:30pm** Pickleball	**30** • **9am** Talking Threads • **10am** COA Cardio Drumming • **10am** Pickleball • **10:30am** Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program • **1pm** BI @ Munising Baptist- Boys BBall • **6pm** BI AA Meeting	**31** • **11am** Bingocize • **11am** Mexican Food Day • **1pm** COA BINGO			

King's birthday was on January 15th. The holiday serves as a time for reflection, community service, and the celebration of Dr. King's contributions to the civil rights movement.

funfacts

For the most up-to-date island events please visit the BIC Calendar. We send our paper to print and dates are subject to change after.

https://biccenter.org/calendar/

BEAVER ISLAND WILDLIFE CLUB NEWS

By Jacque LaFreniere

Big Doe Contest

This year's Big Doe contest during Firearm Season only (Nov. 15-30) had five entries. The biggest weighed in at 119.4 pounds and was submitted by Robert Webster of Saline, MI. The winner received $100! Look for it again next year. There is no entry fee for this contest.

Roy Elsworth Memorial Big Buck Contest

The Big Buck Contest is held for both Firearm and Muzzle Loading seasons. There is a $20 entry fee and the winner receives half of the entry fees, this year it amounted to $600. This contest is based on a score of the buck's rack. Dennis Reilly Jr, won this contest with a score of 129-2/8. Dennis took the buck during Firearm season.

Ice Fishing Tournament

The 2024 Lake Geneserath Ice Fishing Contest will be held on Feb. 17-18, weather permitting. As always, the ice is the deciding factor. There will be multiple prizes for both adults and kids. Food galore and lots of fun. Come on out and enjoy the day. Look for more details in the February Northern Islander. (see photos of past ice fishing tournaments below).

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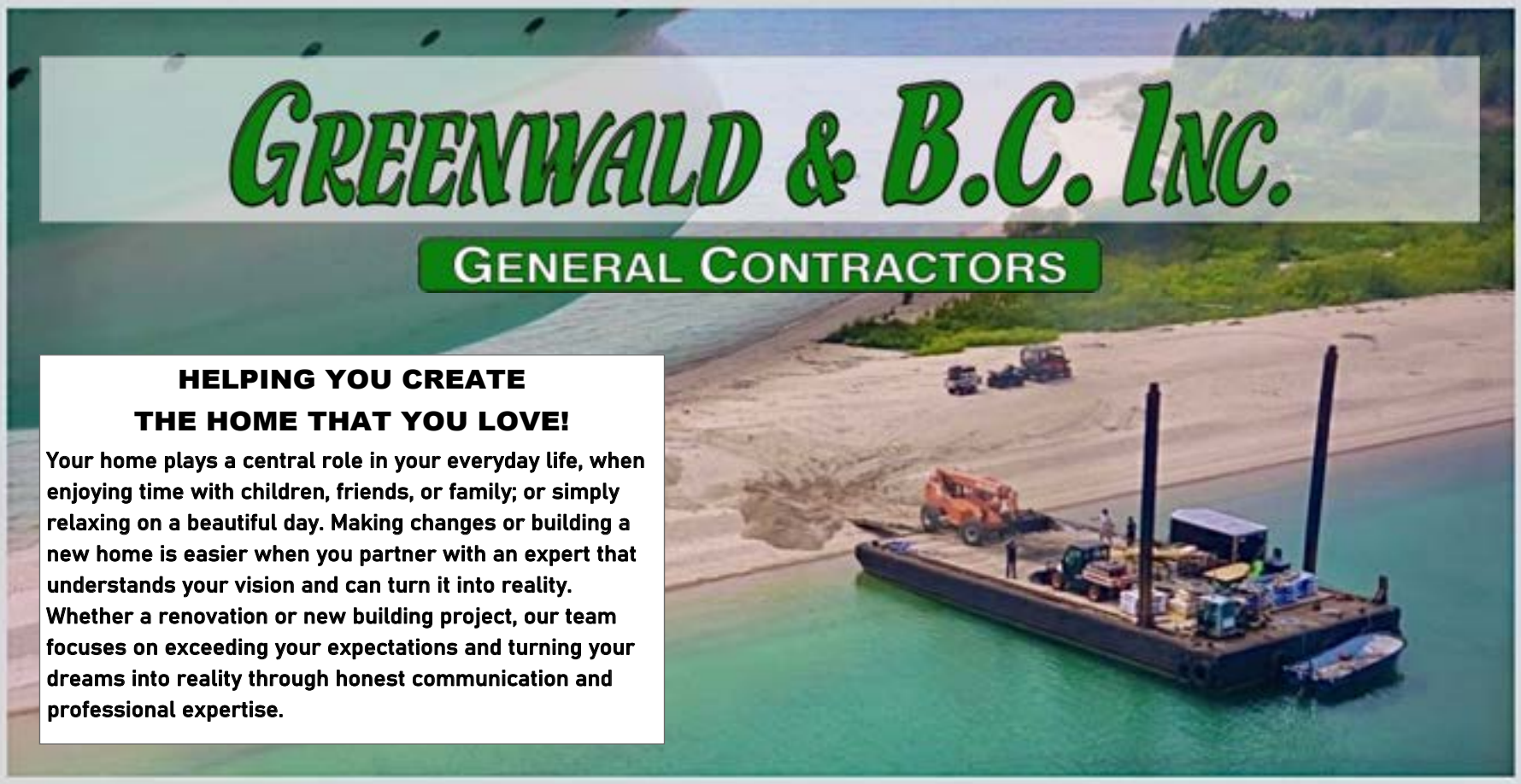
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TRIED AND TRUE FAMILY RECIPES

SANDY LAFRENIERE LODICO'S EASY AND FAST CHICKEN CASSEROLE

EACH MONTH, WE WILL BE FEATURING RECIPES THAT WILL BE SURE TO HAVE YOU COMING BACK FOR SECOND HELPINGS. THE RECIPES THAT WE GREW UP WITH AND STILL MAKE TODAY.

SANDY (LAFRENIERE) LODICO IS THE MIDDLE CHILD OF THE SEVEN BORN TO ARCHIE AND FRANCES LAFRENIERE. SHE GREW UP HELPING HER MOM WAS IN THE KITCHEN FEEDING THE FAMILY, AS WELL AS HELPING CLEAN THE RENTALS AT ISLE HAVEN, AND TENDING BAR AT THE SHAMROCK WHEN ARCHIE OWNED IT.

MY AUNT SANDY HAS A VERY CARING HEART. ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND HER, AND HELPING ANYONE IN NEED. BEING IN HER PRESENCE CAN BE COMFORT ENOUGH. SHE DOESN'T ASK FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN.

SANDY AND HER HUSBAND PETE LIVED IN SAINT JOHN'S MICHIGAN, BEFORE RETIRING TO BEAVER ISLAND. SHE WORKED IN THE SCHOOL AS A TEACHER'S AID. HE WORKED AT THE STATE LEVEL IN AGRICULTURE. THEY RAISED THEIR TWO DAUGHTERS IN THAT COZY COUNTRY HOME. MEALS HAD TO COME TOGETHER QUICKLY ON THE BUSY WEEKDAYS. HERE IS ONE OF THEM FOR WHEN YOU'RE SHORT ON TIME BUT WANT SOMETHING DELICIOUS.

SPREAD COOKED CHICKEN CHUNKS IN A 13X9-INCH PAN. IN A BOWL, MIX TOGETHER ONE CAN CREAM OF CHICKEN AND ONE CAN CREAM OF CELERY, AND SPOON ON TOP OF CHICKEN. PREPARE STOVETOP CHICKEN STUFFING AND PUT THAT ON TOP. BAKE AT 350 DEGREES FOR 30 MINUTES.

BLASTA (IRISH FOR YUMMY OR DELICIOUS)

I AM THANKFUL FOR.....

Rob and I are very thankful to be here for our first Christmas on Beaver Island. We are thankful for all the great friends we have made since moving here this summer. We are so thankful to be here and part of this wonderful community. We are thankful for Baxter. I'm thankful I got my car back from the body shop before the ferry quit running for the season.

Cheryl & Rob Kern

I'm Thankful that the Big Lake water levels have dropped, Gull Harbor is accessible and the car wash is back.

George Broder

We are very thankful that our plans to move to Beaver Island full time are moving forward. This week we sold our house in Southwest Michigan 4 days after it went on the market for the asking price.

Susan and Tracy

I am thankful for good health; wonderful family, friends, and colleagues; and the opportunity to be of some help.

Matt Thomas

Be Thankful
Be Grateful
Be Blessed

I am thankful to be living on Beaver Island and for the good friends I've made here.

Tina Carlton

What I am thankful for: a wonderful, loving and supportive family. A kind and merciful God. A beautiful place to live and a great community (Beaver Island).

Jacque LaFreniere

I am extremely Thankful for my husband and 3 kids, the loves of my life! I'm also Thankful for my biological family that I have lost. I miss them every day but I wouldn't be who I am without them.

Kris Bontrager

We are so thankful to the BI community for their support and donations, helping us achieve our mission to "Cultivate Joy"

~the BIRHC Wellness Garden

I am thankful for a hot cup of tea and a great conversation with our older generations. They share stories and memories of my parents and grandparents. They meant so much to me and I miss them every single day. It keeps their memories alive and allows me to share those with my own children and grandchildren. It keeps a part of them with us always.

Catherine Sowa Meintsma

I'm thankful I got to know my grandparents, Archie and Frances LaFreniere. Their house was always cozy and full of love!

Rach Becker

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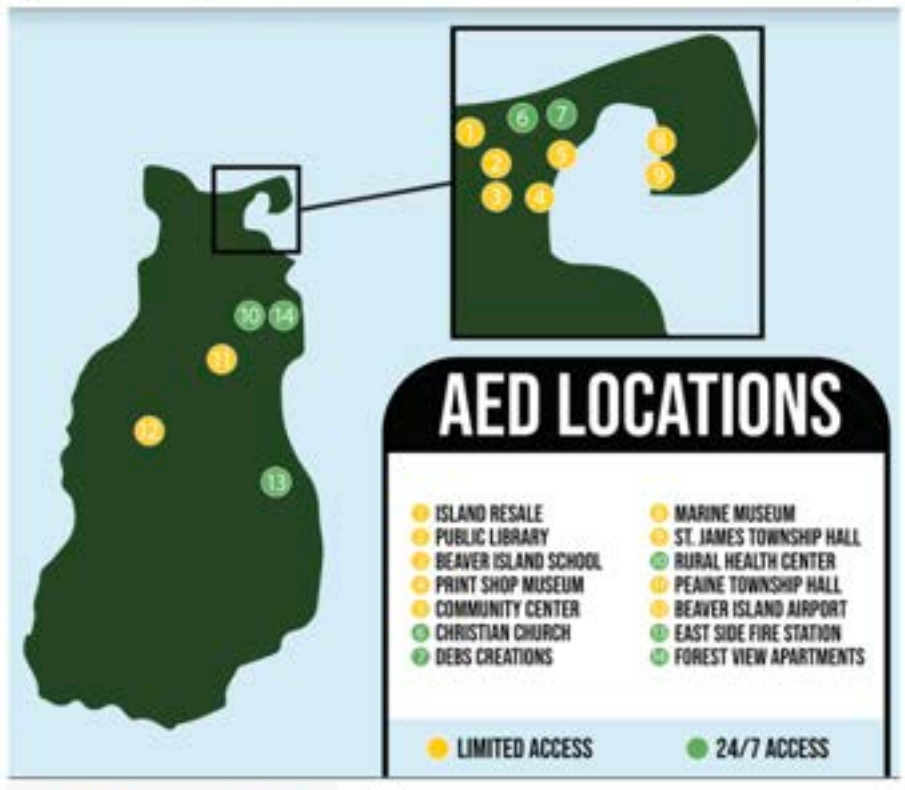
Below is a map of the Island showing the physical locations of the AEDs. Please also note the color coding that provides the type of access available. Thanks again to the Island Treasures Resale Shop and the contribution you each make with supporting their efforts!



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EMERALD ISLE IRISH FÉILE
SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Emerald Isle Féile started in 2019 and was sponsored by the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce and multiple private individuals, businesses and nonprofits. It seeks to present **authentic and varied Irish inspired activities** at its annual festival, as well as **extend the tourism season by one week to promote economic development.** The Féile is a showcase for the Irish Heritage of Beaver Island, also known as "America's Emerald Isle".

2019

The First Annual Irish Festival in 2019 featured music, activities, and history related to the Irish settlement on Beaver Island.

2022

After a 2 year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the festival returned adding additional talent, revamping the website, and inducting its inaugural class into the Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame, honoring the achievements and contributions of 6 individuals.

2023

In 2023, the third and most recent festival reached significant milestones, including welcoming over 120 attendees from Irish Sister island Arranmore, with diverse talent including the Arranmore Pipe Band, instituting the "Calling of the Clans" fundraiser - gathering over $30,000 in support from 10 clans on the island, and almost doubled attendance from 250 tickets to 475.

2024

We're on the brink of securing our new 501(c)3 status as the Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group, a significant step in the growth of the Emerald Isle Irish Féile. This transition brings increased autonomy, improved grant access, and a streamlined path for donors to support our mission directly. **Beyond benefiting Beaver Island, the event's regional draw brings hundreds of visitors to Charlevoix and Northern Michigan, positively impacting local businesses.** As we add an extra weekend of economic activity, we remain committed to enhancing administrative support, elevating event quality, and strengthening our role as a symbol of community pride and cultural celebration.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2024 FÉILE SEPTEMBER 6-8!

Happy New Year!
ATHBHLIAIN FAOI MHAISE!
Wishing a wonderful
New Year to All
From the Emerald Isle Irish Fèile
Announcing our Governing Nonprofit Corporation:
Beaver Island Irish Heritage Group
PO Box 616, Beaver Island MI 49782
We hope to see you at the Fèile -
September 6 & 7, 2024

CRITICAL SUPPORT

Donor support is crucial for the Emerald Isle Irish Féile. It provides the necessary funds to plan, organize, and execute the event effectively. These funds cover essential expenses like artists and entertainment, venue rentals, logistics, and marketing, ensuring the event's quality and reach. Fundraising also contributes to long-term sustainability, allowing the organization to grow and continue its mission of celebrating Irish culture and fostering community connections.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Emerald Isle Sponsor: $2,000 + A gift within this level assists us in bringing our main stage artists and sound crew to the event.
- Sponsor name/logo on large banner in main music venues
- Sponsor name/logo on Féile website and on the festival program
- Sponsor mention on social media and newspaper promotions of event
- Four event passes, Two event t-shirts, One walkway sign

Arranmore Island Sponsor: $1,000-$1,999 A gift within this level assists us in bringing smaller artists and single acts, as well as the Currach races, to the event.
- Sponsor name/logo on large banner in main music venues
- Sponsor name/logo on Féile website and on the festival program
- Sponsor mention on social media and newspaper promotions of event
- Two event passes, One event t-shirt, One walkway sign

Donegal Bay Sponsor: $500-$999 A gift within this level helps support the costs associated with the Beaver Island Irish American Hall of Fame and the Children's Area events and prizes.
- Sponsor name/logo on Féile website and on the festival program
- Sponsor mention on social media and newspaper promotions of event
- One event pass, One walkway sign

Paradise Bay Sponsor: $100-$499 A gift within this level is used to pay for essential festival expenses.
- Sponsor name/logo on Féile website and on the festival program
- Sponsor mention on social media and newspaper promotions of event
- One t-shirt, One walkway sign

Main Street Walkway Sign Sponsor: $95 Your name and/or greeting (up to 25 characters) on a lawn sign to be placed along Main Street during the event. Examples include a sign in memory or honor of someone, your name or business logo, or other festive message.

Looking to sponsor a specific artist, band, or event?

Artists are the mainstay of the Féile and you can sponsor a specific artist, band or event at the Féile! Your sponsor name and logo will be prominently displayed at the venues where the artist performs, on the sound equipment at major venues, or at the specific event of your choice.

We have specific sponsorships ranging from $1,000 - $6,000. Please get in touch with Kitty directly to discuss your options.

WON'T YOU JOIN US?

To assist us in planning the best Féile yet, we'd love to know of your intent to contribute by February 29, 2024. Simply go to our website irishfeile.com/get-involved to pledge your sponsorship contribution. **Payments are due in full by June 15th** . We would be happy to meet with you and customize a sponsorship solution that suits your budget needs. For customization, please contact either Féile Coordinator: Kitty McNamara or Board Chair: Paul Cole via email at emeraldisleirishfeile@gmail.com. Checks can also be mailed to Beaver Island Heritage Group, PO Box 619, Beaver Island, MI 49782

The Beaver Island Irish Féile was started in 2019, sponsored by the Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce as well as multiple private businesses and non-profits on Beaver Island. The Emerald Isle Irish Féile seeks to present authentic and varied Irish inspired activities at its annual festival. Its main objects are to promote economic development by extending the summer tourism season by one week; recognize, showcase, and preserve the island's unique Irish heritage; and connect with other Irish American communities. The Féile is a showcase for the Irish heritage of Beaver Island, also known as "America's Emerald Isle."

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The Bearss Home
26020 Back Hwy.

More pictures at
edwojanrealty.com

The Bearss Family Home – 26020 Back Highway

Like new 2640 sq. ft. year-round home built to last this family for generations. It is a two story building completely finished on both levels and all above grade. The house has three bedrooms, two full baths, and two half baths. There are a total of 14 rooms. This home was built to be a very energy efficient year-round home for retirees; it has 2 X 6 stud wall construction with excess insulation in the walls and overhead. It has electric baseboard heat throughout plus an extra heater with an efficient propane fireplace. It also has a lot of glass on both levels but high quality exterior vinyl, interior wood, Andersen windows. The first level is all large square tile flooring and the second level is all laminate flooring that looks like wood. This house was built in 2006 with high quality 30 year shingles on the roof. The exterior is long-life cement board siding. It has a 5" thick white plastic deep well approximately 200 ft. deep. The main feature of this offering is its location in the middle of the town of St. James on the second road back from the Harbor. (Right near the East end of Back Highway and the Gallagher Avenue intersection) It has a beautiful view of the North part of Beaver Harbor and Beaver Island Marina North. It is a four minute walk to Dalwhinnie Restaurant, McDonough's Market and Whiskey Point Brewery to the East and also a four minute walk to the Ferry dock and all of the businesses on Main Street and the Museum and Daddy Frank's. If you have a boat you could probably put it at St. James Marine right at the end of Gallagher Avenue and watch your boat from your dining room or the upstairs living room. It has a detached one car garage to the South side of the house that had a new metal roof put on it in 2021. With a lot value of right around $50,000.00 and today's building cost of 2640 sq. ft. you would spend well over one million dollars to build this house and garage. **It's therefore really priced right to sell at only $589,000.00**

OFFICE - 26300 Back Highway - Beaver Island, MI 49782 - Call Ed at 231-313-8682

Beaver Island District Library

Nibwaakaawin

JANURARY IS.....

National Hobby Month, the perfect time of year to pick up a new hobby or get back into an old one that you haven't thought about in a while! The great thing about having a hobby is that it can take your mind off the pressure of work or other daily stresses. Sit down and think about what you really love to do. Consider what sparks passion in your life or what makes you curious. Finding a good hobby and giving yourself time to take part in it on a daily or weekly basis is sure to make you happier, and maybe even healthier.

Stop at the library to find resources about various hobbies. Use #NationalHobby-Month to post on social media. Talk about a new hobby you've picked up or better yet, post a photo or video of you doing it to get others inspired to do the same!

Other ways to celebrate the month include:

•Share your hobby with others by giving a class.
•Make gifts of your hobby.
•Start a hobby group so you can socialize, too.
•Turn your hobby into a career.

National Mentoring Month is an annual designation observed in January. This month, focus on how we can all work together to increase the number of mentors to make sure young people in our communities have dependable people to look up to and follow in their footsteps. NMM celebrates mentoring and the positive effect it can have on young lives. Its goals are to:

•Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms.
•Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people.
•Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

Mentoring also includes a wealth of benefits for both the mentor and the mentee.

•Improves confidence
•Develops communication skills
•Exposures participants to new experiences
•Improves goal-setting
•Improves listening skills
•Develops organizational skills

Other Days to celebrate in January:

1- World Day of Peace: Take a moment to pray for peace in the world.
2- National Science Fiction Day: Read a Sci-Fi book or watch a movie!
9- National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day: Tell our great BI Deputies how much we appreciate them!
15- National Hat Day: Wear your craziest hat to the library and get your picture taken.
18- National Michigan Day and National Winnie the Pooh Day: check out the books on Michigan and on Winnie the Pooh at the Library.
19- National Popcorn Day: Free popcorn during the day at the BIDL
24- National Library Shelfie Day: Using the book titles printed on a book spine- tell a story, or at least make up a sentence. Take a picture and send it to us at island.library@gmail.com
29- National Puzzle Day: Jigsaw puzzles are constantly being worked at BIDL
31- National Hot Chocolate Day: Come in to the BIDL for your free cup of Hot Chocolate!

Upcoming Library Events

Babies and Toddlers Story Times are scheduled for January 4th and 18th at 9:30 a.m. at the Library. Maeve Green, our children's librarian has planned a fun gathering of activities with the little ones and their parents.

Story Hours continue on Tuesdays at 2:30 p.m.

January Story Hours are scheduled for Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 at 2:30 p.m. Story Hours are filled with reading, STEM activities and more. Homeschoolers, and preschoolers are invited to participate in this weekly program. Questions? Call the library and talk to Maeve!

Jan. 10th- Our next Library Pals with the 3rd and 4th grade classes will meet at 10:30 a.m. Library Pals is a program set up between the lower elementary school and our Senior Citizens. The students arrive with a book or story to read to one of the adults. There is "one on one" time and a snack following. Library Pals met in December with the 1st and 2nd grades. If you wish to participate as a Pal, call the library or stop in and let us know.

GetSetUp

Jan. 17th at 11 a.m. COA and other senior citizens will meet at the library to get set up with Get Set Up, a free program for Michigan seniors. Get Set Up offers classes and gatherings in a variety of topics from exercise to cooking, travelogues and finances, technology and more. Many of the offerings are in person- through Zoom. Others are on demand- open and watch them when you want. There will be some offerings that can be held as a group and will meet at the library or community center. At the library we will help you get the app loaded on your devices (phone, tablets, etc.) and will present an orientation on the program. Come join us and Get Set Up! Not sure? Check out www.getsetup.io/partner/michigan.

Jan. 17th 3 p.m.: Bookies of Beaver Island Book Club meets to discuss *The Other Eden* by Paul Harding. Books are available to check out at the library and all are welcome to attend. Zoom is available to those who are not able to attend the meeting in person.

Jan. 18th 5 p.m. Library Board Meeting at the library. Open to the public.

Notes:

Reminder to check your email/junk mail/ spam for notices from the library.

Keep up on the news from BIDL by signing up for Wowbrary, a weekly e-newsletter. Go to: beaverisland.michlibrary.org and click on the link to sign up.

You can also sign up for e-books and more through the same website- click on "Click here to use your library card to borrow free e-books and audiobooks". It's easy and free!

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

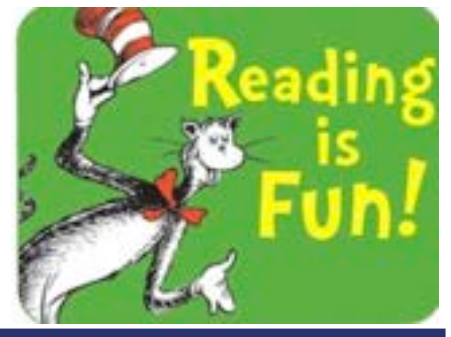
LEGO CLUB

Lego Club will not meet in January, however, the Lego materials are always out for you to enjoy building. Stop in and get creative!

BOOK SPINES/ENDOWMENT

Contribute to the BIDL Endowment Fund and purchase a Book Spine for display on the Benefactor's Bookshelf. You can determine what you want to put on the spine (honoring someone, a favorite book or author, a play on words....). Contact the Library for more details.

1" spine is $100, 2" spine is $200 and a 3" spine is $300.



ELKS SPONSORS THE "HOOP SHOOT"

By Kitty McNamara

Eight Beaver Island students participated in the Elks Lodge 2886 Hoop Shoot on December 14th in the school gym. The Hoop Shoot is a national free-throw shooting contest held at over 1,800 Elks Lodges across the country.

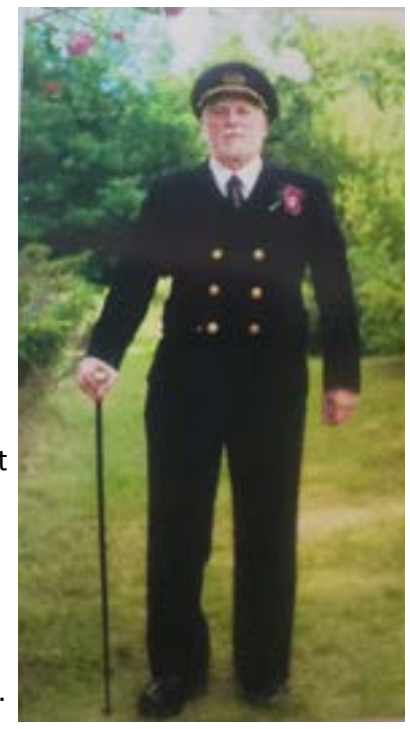
The official winners are:

Decklan McGhee 8&9 year olds
Collin McGhee 10&11 year olds
Tyler Bousquet 12&13 year olds

These boys will compete in District competition on January 19th @ Noon @BICS Gym.

I WAS NOT ALONE

By Captain Glen Felixson



On Beaver Island through the 1950's, the old McKinley School, just about from McKinley's time, was taught by nuns, Sister Rene and Sister Therese, etc. It was a public school but since the island was 99% Irish Catholic, it was natural. They were good teachers and disciplinarians.

My older brother Kurt was goofing off one time and Sister Rene had about had it. She grabs the stick and heads for him with justice in her eyes. The heat was a big old potbelly stove, Kurt grabbed the stove poker, backed up and, warded off her blows. Now this wasn't as bad as it sounds. Sister Rene, who was almost as wide as she was tall, and had a jolly sense of humor to match. Everybody is laughing and cheering them on. They were sword fighting, well sort of. It didn't last long, I don't think he ever got hit because she was laughing too, and said, "Now, sit down and behave yourself."

This dear woman who thought kids absorbed learning only until noon, would take us for nature walks or if the weather was bad, we'd sit around the stove and she would read to us all the great old classics. Treasure Island, Robinson Crusoe, and so on. I'd get back to Chicago at Christmas time and be a month or two ahead of the kids there.

We got lunch cooked for us on a big cast iron cook stove in the back room. Florence Roland, among others, would take turns cooking us kids hot lunches. Roast turkey, ham, chicken, and much, much more yummy. The whole thing cost a whopping 25 cents and was all you could eat. Of course, you had to eat all they put on your plate first, then you could have all you wanted of whatever you wanted.

My friend Eddie Palmer, ate his full plate, went back and asked for just mashed potatoes and gravy. She asked him to tell her when to stop. He didn't say anything and ended up with a veritable mountain of mashed potatoes, rim to rim on a big plate. She scooped out about a large cup full of gravy on top. He's trying to get back to his desk without spilling. Of course, we're all helping him, Ja, right? He made it okay and ate it all.

We all had guns by ten or so years of age. And everybody had a pocket knife, try that today! So, on the first day of small game season of course us guys are all out hunting. But the Charlevoix County school system pays by a head count, so Sister Rene says, "All right you guys, get in here by noon so we can have a head count. And, bring in whatever you get, but don't be dragging no deer in here, and we will have a wild game lunch."

Well, I got a squirrel or two and there was a duck, some partridge, and rabbits. We put our guns up against the wall, it looked like Pancho Villa's camp. Wouldn't the NRA love to have a picture of that? It was eighth grade, you know. Well, we dressed out our game on the newspaper over our desks with our pocket knives of course. The nuns and girls went back and cooked it all on the old cookstove and we pigged out.

Now before you forget what this is all about, I'll get back to the story. One crisp morning, my brother Kurt and I were down at the beach playlot by the old parish hall, since we were heathen Protestants and not to be part of catechism the first fifteen minutes of the day.

Well, it was late fall. The ice on the harbor was maybe two inches thick. I look out on the harbor and see my dog, Inky, crossing towards us. He gets about halfway across and breaks through. He is yelping like crazy. I go nuts and head out on the thin ice which just barely holds my skinny little butt. I got far enough out that Dick LaFreniere can see me from his store, which is now the Community Center. I was at least 100 yards or more out in the harbor. He's going nuts, hollering like crazy, of course, I don't hear him and keep going. Then the thin ice starts bowing.

In the meantime, he starts shooting at me with a 30-30 deer rifle. I remember the bullets hitting the ice in front of me, ping, ping. The thin ice is bowing more and more with my weight, so I flatten out to spread my weight and start to crawl back. He thinks I went through but there isn't a damn thing he can do. I'm crawling back when suddenly Inky, my 60-lb black lab who got out, comes running up and jumping all over me with joy, not knowing he could put us both in the drink. You don't last long in the drink. But, luckily, we made it back to shore. Dick comes running up to see if we are okay. We spent the rest of the day in front of the old potbelly stove eating turkey and listening to great old stories.

P.S. I don't think I was alone on the ice.

ISLANDERS STRANDED ON MAINLAND FLOCK TO THE BOAT

By Amy Marschner

On December 18, we were once again reminded of one of the worth-while challenges living the island life. Due to several days of incremental weather, both airlines delayed and canceled several flights leaving folks stranded on the mainland and also on the island. As a result, one of the last boat trips of the season was filled with eager passengers hoping to get home to start celebrating the holiday season. Thankfully, the wind gusts of nearly 50 mph, did not deter the Emerald Isle from plowing forward across Lake Michigan.

According to Senior Captain, Brian Antkoviak, " It looked worse that it was. In previous years, we would experience weeks of challenging weather".

Regardless, we thank the dedicated BIBCO staff for getting all home safely. Get some much deserved rest and we look forward to riding with you again in April.

Photo Credit: John Doskoch

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ISLANDER ODYSSEY

By Joseph Slaney

With boasts and comradery,
and roars from mangled mufflers
so began their odyssey,
Rich and four Martin brothers.

First, fast to the Harbor Light,
their eyes flashing like diamonds.
Then left, blazing out-of-sight,
straight toward Garden Island.

On its shoreline speedily,
they halt for a hot toddy
and hoot and howl breezily
like rogues at a wake bawdy.

"McMuffins in Mackinaw!"
bellows Buddy with boldness,
as Mike, off his Yamaha,
drops into slushy coldness.

With limbs doused and deadening,
moistened Mike wisely decides
to race homeward trembling
with wide-eyed Emmet astride.

Two Martin boys departed,
Ernest, Rich, Buddy remain
to continue, light-hearted,
their venture bold and insane.

Now north, like a game-of-chance,
toward tiny Hat Island,
and then east to Waugoshance
and the Grays Reef Light wizened.

Outward four miles hastily
from the bleak, barren atoll
on ice gleaming fatally,
hurtles Rich out of control.

Skidding left with viciousness,
then to the rightward abrupt,
Rich loses all consciousness
as glass shards round him erupt.

Into the cold waterway,
the dazed daredevil descends
as Martins, not faraway,
hope, slack-jawed, that he'll ascend.

With death more than plausible,
Rich hears his father's advice
that "anything's possible,
until they pack you in ice."

Whirling like a Ferris wheel
at a mad-hatter's circus,
Rich flies off his snowmobile
and fights back to the surface.

"Can't believe you're still kickin,"
hollers Ernest with surprise,
as he yanks Rich frost-bitten,
out of most certain demise.

To Hat Island hurriedly,
passing Hog and then Garden,
the trio blasts frenziedly
without pity or pardon.

Back in St. James happily,
Rich takes a tepid shower,
and at the bar snappily,
chatters within a short hour.

The next day Rich retraces
the tracks to his sunk gunner,
and a buoy unlaces
to retrieve her, come summer.

The point of this chronicle
with its near-killer kerplunk?
Be thoughtful and logical
and always pick up your junk,

and must you go exploring
on thin ice with loud mufflers,
be sure that you're rip-roaring
beside four Martin brothers.

Announcing the C3F Youth Needs Grant Awards

The Charlevoix County Community Foundation (C3F) is pleased to announce the Youth Needs grant awards for 2023.

At the end of each year, area nonprofits serving Charlevoix County youth are encouraged to apply for funding from C3F's Youth Fund, established 30 years ago with the support of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, which awards annual grants each December. All applications submitted are reviewed by the C3F Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) who serve as the decision-making body for these grants. A 2022 youth needs assessment, developed with the help of over 800 Charlevoix County youth from local school districts, guide the YAC in their process and identified their giving priority areas of youth mental health and school atmosphere.

The Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) has been a core part of C3F since 1994. Sixteen youth from across Charlevoix County are selected to be members. Camden Carey, Senior at Charlevoix Middle High School and President of the YAC shared, "This year the committee had to make some very difficult decisions regarding the cycle, and through great discussion, we came to a consensus that left everyone satisfied. All ideas were considered, which is hard for a group of 16. Personally, this is the biggest cycle I have been a part of and I'm excited to see the immense impact our local nonprofits will make using these dollars."

Eight area programs are addressing youth mental health. The Child Abuse Prevention & Education Council will be able to fund keynote speaker expenses and technology equipment for their annual CAPE Council conference held each spring to provide education on child development. Northern Michigan Equine Therapy received support for the development of a new strategic plan to maximize capacity and better serve youth in the community, while also exploring how they might expand services to meet increased demand. The Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan's funding will gain support for building renovation expenses to create space for psychosomatic therapies to enhance mental health services available to youth survivors from Charlevoix County. Child and Family Services of Northwest Michigan gained funding for the opening of Safe Haven North, a supervised visit and safe child exchange program, in Harbor Springs.

Additionally, the Boyne District Librarys Youth Services Department will hold a Family Dinner Book Club in March 2024, thanks to their Youth Needs grant. Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Michigan's mentoring program will get a boost through funding to help their youth clients by providing them with a caring adult mentor. Char-Em ISD –Behavioral Health Department's new program will receive support for the unique cultural and social emotional needs of English Language Learners (ELL) and Indigenous youth by providing comfort kits to help students adjust to a new school environment and find universal ways to connect with school staff. The Depot Jordan Valley Teen Center plans to address the anxiety and depression concerns of teens through Mental Health and Wellness programs with a cohesive, holistic approach that includes classes, programs, and activities.

Education has also remained a priority this year. Char-Em ISD STEM received funding to bring magnetic levitation train kits to third grade classrooms to support science, technology, education, and math experiences for teachers and students. PoWeR! Book Bags will provide brand new books and materials for playing, writing, and reading, as well as resources on children's growth and development. Planned Parenthood of Michigan will be able to provide in-school sexual health education programs in Charlevoix Middle High School as well as East Jordan Middle and High School. A grant to East Jordan Public Schools will support an end of the school year trip to Gettysburg Military Park for the 30 Shoe Club members to learn about the impact veterans have made by exposing them to various historical programs, exhibits, battlefields, and presentations.

Recreation projects will get a boost this year through three program grants. Camp Daggett will be able to facilitate their Positive School Climate Project as a part of their Adventure Education Program. Rotary Club of Charlevoix Charities gained support to build and install a new playground at Mt. McSauba in Charlevoix. **Finally, a Beaver Island Historical Society grant will fund the Beaver Island Kids Camp, a week of engaging activities for Island youth ages 4-14.**

In all, the Youth Needs cycle awarded $89,760 in grants to 15 organizations serving the youth of Charlevoix County. These grants are made possible in part by the donors that support the Youth Fund at C3F through their financial contributions. To see the full list of grant awards from the 2023 Youth Needs grant cycle, visit www.c3f.org.

The C3F 2024 Grant Calendar is now available for all upcoming grant cycles. Visit the website at www.c3f.org for complete information. The Community Foundation welcomes inquiries about applying for grants anytime, via email, at acousens@c3f.org. To make a financial gift to support any of these grant funds, please reach out to the Community Foundation at 231-536-2440 or visit the website at www.c3f.org.

A charitable organization dedicated to improving and enriching life in the area, the Charlevoix County Community Foundation accepts gifts from individuals, families, businesses, and civic groups and manages them as permanent endowments. While a portion of the funds are utilized to support grantmaking, the principal of the endowment continues to grow, providing ongoing charitable capital to benefit Charlevoix County's residents—now and in the future.

BLAST FROM THE PAST BEAVER BEACONS- A FEW STORIES FROM JANUARY 1957

Shared by Amy Marschner

THE BEAVER BEACON

January 1957 St. James, Mich.
MONTHLY NEWSLETTER edited and published by the Board of Directors of the Beaver Island Civic Association.

BEACON

OUR BOY BEACON....2 years old with this issue. Join in the celebration with a B. I. C. A. membership and get your "slice of BEACON".

LAST BOAT....until spring was the word spoken as the ferry Emerald Isle left the dock in the early afternoon of New Year's Day. The final trip scheduled for Dec. 30th was delayed because of bad weather. She docked on the Island around 12.15 P.M. Jan. 1st, slightly iced. Islanders tooka good look and thought of April 1, 1957. The mail contract for the winter started with Joe McPhillips Flying Service.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS....Patrick LaFreniere back from Europe and out of the service; Eleanor Gallagher & Rosie Mcdonough from Acquinas in G. Rapids; Johnny LaFreniere from C & O Ferry Service in Ludington; Janet Gallagher from teaching in Cascade; Donald McCafferty & Glen McDonough now in uniform. Donald will be stationed in Virginia & Glen in Colorado.

To read more Beacons from the past, visit the Historical Society website archive at https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/beaver-beacon/

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NATURALLY, MANY OF THE STORIES THAT WILL BE TOLD ARE FAMILIAR TO LONGTIME ISLANDERS. BUT WE HOPE TO UNCOVER ADDITIONAL OR EVEN FORGOTTEN DETAILS TO ADD TO THE HISTORICAL RECORD. FOR NEWCOMERS AND FIRST-TIME VISITORS, WE HOPE TO BROADEN AND ENRICH THEIR UNDERSTANDING OF A UNIQUE PLACE THAT SO MANY OF US TREASURE.
ISSUE PRICE: $10.00
*PLUS SHIPPING

GUTSY WOMEN 2024

By Lori Taylor-Blitz

Museum Week 2024 will feature a week of Beaver Island's Gutsiest Women past & present. Who will they be????

The Historical Society will be organizing a community committee to select up to eight women to be featured in our Gutsy Women exhibit and the female leaders will be honored throughout the 2024 Museum Week programs. Our past Gutsy Women featured were:

- Sophia (Harkins) Bonner: Early Irish Mother, Friend of Protar and Mother of Famous Fiddler Patrick Bonnor
- Bridget (O'Donnell) Greene: Matriarch of Farm and Family
- Angeline (Pawpawmesay) Wabanimkee: An Early Leader
- Sharon Elizabeth (Malloy) Scamehorn: Nun and Nurse
- Ruth Ann Bedford: The woman Who Refused to Wear Bloomers
- Mary Elizabeth (Betty) Cull Lockton: A Ture War Hero
- Elizabeth Whitney Williams: Lighthouse Keeper
- Angie Price: The Protar Lady

If you would be interested in serving on the committee or nominating a Beaver Island Gutsy Woman please call us at the office (231.448.2254) or email director@beaverislandhistory.org.

Photo Credit: Drawing by Hellen Collar.

Sharon Elizabeth (Malloy) Scamehorn
Nun and Nurse
Sharon Elizabeth (Malloy) Scamehorn was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan in 1940 to Austin Hugh Malloy and Ivey Beryl "Leona" Haines Malloy. When she was a young woman, Sharon decided to become a nun. She began her vocation at Marywood Academy then earned her degree as a Registered Nurse at St. Mary's, both in Grand Rapids.

Photo Credit: Liz Schwandt

Bridget (O'Donnell) Greene
Matriarch of Farm and Family
Bridget (O'Donnell) Greene was born to Anthony and Sophia O'Donnell in Arranmore, Ireland in 1851. In April of that year her parents boarded the "Countess of Arran" moving Bridget from Ireland to Quebec, Canada and eventually to Pennsylvania, United States. After five years spent between Quebec and Pennsylvania, the O'Donnell family moved to Beaver Island, Michigan.

Photo Credit: Mary Beth Nelson

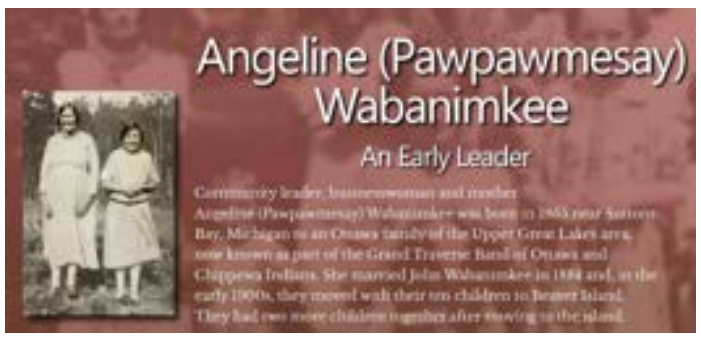

Photo Credit: The Elders Speak by George A. Anthony.

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BEAVER ISLAND RECEIVES ANOTHER FEDERAL GRANT TO PUT TOWARD A NEW VESSEL AND DOCK RENOVATIONS

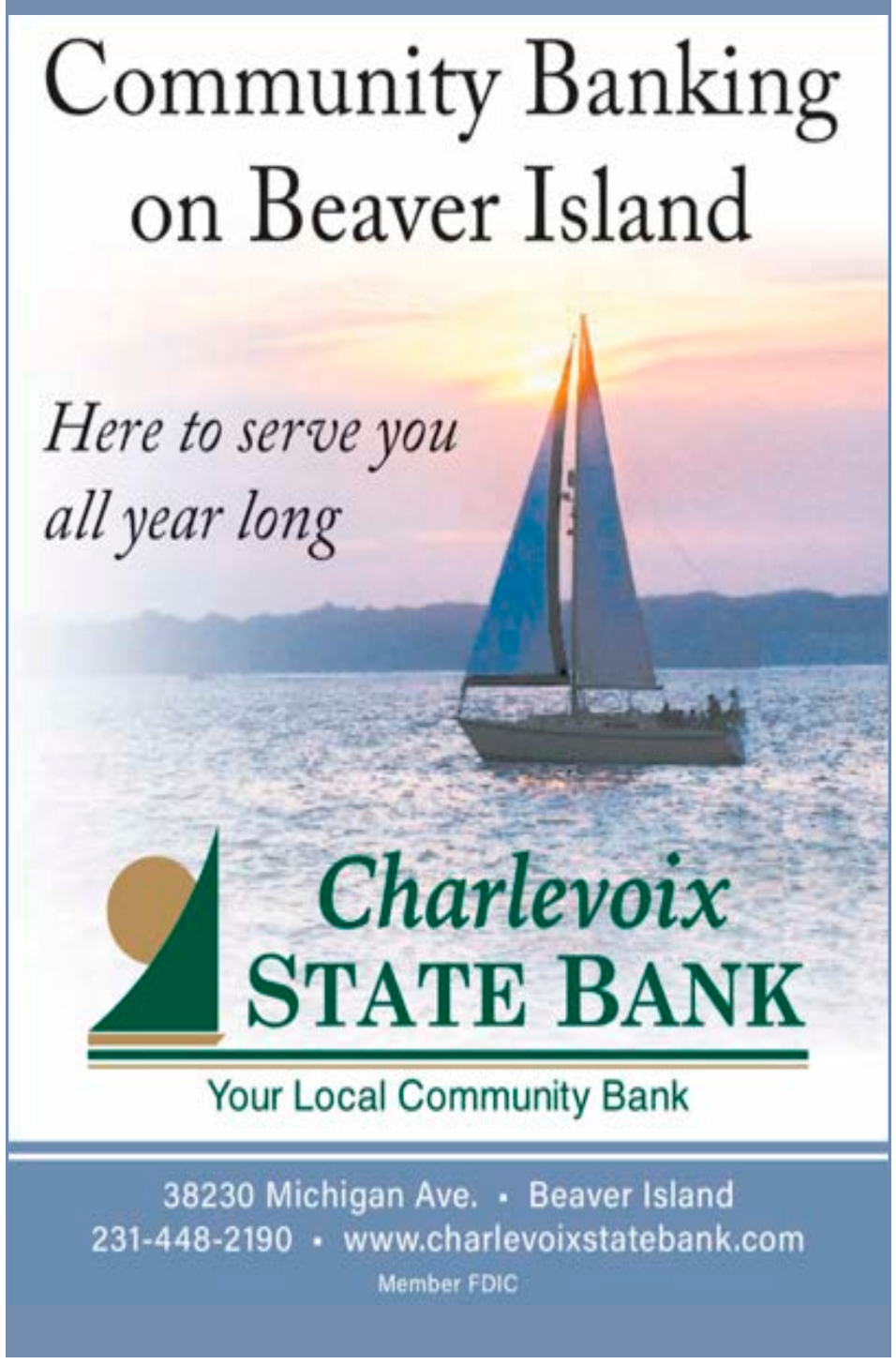
December 1, 2023 – The Federal Transportation Administration (FTA) has awarded another grant of $10,000,000 to put toward a new vessel and dock renovations for the Beaver Island ferry system. These dollars are in addition to $8,200,000 awarded earlier in the year by the FTA with the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) providing match and a Michigan Infrastructure Grant of $14,000,000.

A vessel was designed in 2012 and until recently was not able to be funded. This vessel was designed with diesel engines. The Beaver Island Transportation Authority (BITA) was awarded $90,000 for a propulsion study funded by MDOT which is currently being conducted to determine what other fuel alternatives besides diesel could be utilized. It is expected the study will be completed by February 2024 and a cost analysis of constructing and operating a new vessel can be determined.

The dock on the Island has been damaged due to high waters in the past few years. Repairs and upgrades will be completed while also making space for the new vessel.

There are currently two vessels transporting passengers, vehicles, and freight, from Charlevoix to Beaver Island between April and December. The M/V Emerald Isle launched in 1997 is owned by BITA and operated by the Beaver Island Boat Company (BIBCO). BIBCO owns and operates the M/V Beaver Islander built in 1962 and runs during peak season and when the M/V Emerald Isle is out for maintenance. The ferry service is essential for the community and economy.

BITA has a contract with BIBCO to provide scheduled transportation to the Island from Charlevoix. Water transportation would not be possible without the support of BIBCO, MDOT, FTA, local, state, federal representatives, and agencies. BITA receives federal and state funding for capital and operations. Questions can be directed to Mary Cook, Executive Director, Beaver Island Transportation Authority, 231/448/3049.



CHARLEVOIX COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SYNOPSIS DECEMBER 13, 2023

The Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners met in the Charlevoix County Commissioners room on December 13, 2023, at 9:30 a.m. Five Commissioners were present. Excused: Commissioner Chamberlain.

Motion approved the agenda as presented.

Motion approved the consent agenda as presented.

Motion approved Resolution #23-141, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #23-142, Grandvue Operating Transfer.

Motion approved Resolution #23-143, Approve County Expenditures.

Motion approved to establish Bike Trail Steering Committee.

Motion approved to reappoint Sandra Clausen to the Fair Board, Marilyn Cousineau to Land Bank, Nancy Ferguson and Mike Ritter to the Planning Commission, Phil Kessler and John Haggard to the Sanitary Code Board of Appeals, Michael Cunningham to the Transportation Authority, and Mike Castglione to the Workforce Development Board.

Motion approved Resolution #23-144, Public Hearing Notice.

Motion approved Resolution #23-145, Citizen Participation Plan.

Motion approved Resolution #23-146, Remonumentation Grant Application for 2024.

Motion approved Resolution #23-147, Charlevoix County Transit Title VI Plan.

Motion approved Resolution #23-148, Advisacare Office Building Lease Renewal.

Motion approved Resolution #23-149, Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion approved to table Resolutions #23-150 Re-establishing the Charlevoix County Commission on Aging Advisory Committee, #23-151 Re-establishing the Charlevoix County Parks Committee, and #23-152 Re-establishing the Charlevoix County Transit Committee.

Motion approved Resolution #23-153, Updated Travel Policy. 4.1. Nays – Commissioner Hankins.

The meeting was adjourned to the call of the Chair at 11:58 a.m.

Complete copies of Board minutes can be found on the County website, www.charlevoixcounty.org.

Julia A. Drost, County Clerk

Furbabies of Beaver Island

DUKE'S LEGACY

By Jeff Connor

Duke.... What can you say? I got Duke 12 years ago, he was a criminal in the Harbor Springs pound. His mug shot on the internet and the poster stated, cattle dog, jumpy nervous type. Looking for a new gang for more high adventure. I threw his bail and off we rode into the sunset. I originally went to get the dog for my son Levi. But when I got back to the island it had become obvious He was mine. I could not move a foot without him jumping up to his feet faster than me.

In the morning He would be up before me saying hey let's go we're burning daylight...typical cattle dog, watched too many episodes of The Cowboys... John Wayne! In the short time I had him it became obvious he was very smart, I had him doing my taxes but he was too honest lolol, it also became obviou he was one very acrobatic dog. He could do back flips with ease, got a tall truck? He could jump right through the open window like a cat, not touch the door frame just land gently on the seat... he once was gonna jump in Levis's truck but the WINDOW WAS CLOSED!. To say theleast at Duke's expense we got a good laugh... poor Duke, he bounced off the closed window!!

Seldom did it take more than a few tries on a trick and he had it down pat. Dedication? I never had a dog more dedicated. If I left the property without him he would just lay up by the shop and wait for me to come back. Many times I was gone a few days and he would go eat with Levi then back to the shop, winter or summer alike. In older age, the Beaver Island Retreat started, they loved him and became a regular guest that people loved there. He was kind and gentle to kids and adults alike, quick to comfort you if crying or stressed.

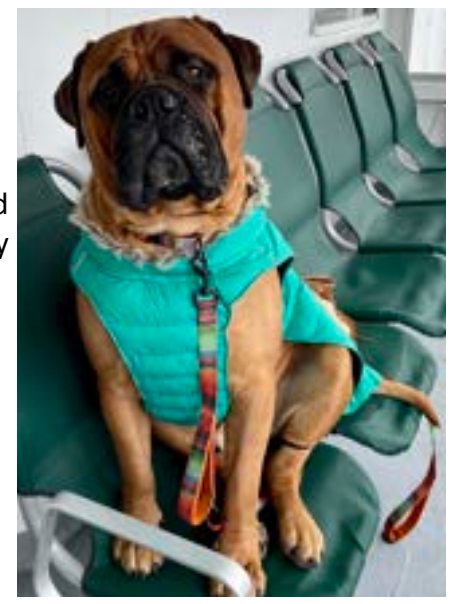
I took him to the lake every afternoon to walk the beach and swim, he loved chasing sticks until he could not see well. Even the tricks, he would look at you with that look, you do it then I will!

Friends, Duke had lots of them from Dick McEvoy who would pick him up and take him for rides in his convertible and he would also stop by often just to see Duke and give him a few dog bones. My sons and family loved him, everyone from the retreat, The Whiskey River boys, too many to list here but I am suer many will nod their heads reading this.

Duke passed away two days before Thanksgiving. I had him cremated so I could spread his ashes between Beaver Island and Colorado. He was a traveling dog and as per his wishes in his will, he wanted to be spread around slowly and with friends. A healing process he whispered to me in the end. RIP DUKE!!

MEET BAXTER

By Cheryl Kern



Baxter is a super friendly Bullmastiff that LOVES everyone! He weighs almost 150 pounds and is 2 years old, he is my second Bullmastiff. My first one was about 30 years ago, and I never thought I could love a dog as much as I did her. One day I told my husband that I wanted a Bullmastiff puppy before I was too old to handle one. They are very good dogs but can be over 100 lbs. at 6 months of age. That's a lot of puppy! I found a very good breeder and she put us on the list. It isn't first come first serve and we didn't get to pick the puppy. She carefully takes into consideration the prospective parents and each pup's personality. She only breeds every 4 years and most of her mother dogs only have 1 litter. After 3 interviews she moved us toward the top of the list, and we were blessed with a tiny 19 pound 2-month-old puppy for Christmas.

Bullmastiffs are not good guard dogs; they roll over for tummy rubs when someone comes over and would be willing to help carry anything out of the house. They were bred to walk with night watchmen on English Estates and never ever bite anyone, those dogs were trained to knock someone down on command, Baxter hasn't been trained to do that. A well-bred, properly raised Bullmastiff will be calm, happy, friendly, good with children and other pets. They had to live with the watchman, his family and other animals in a small cottage on the estate. They are "dry mouthed" which means they don't drool and "soft mouthed" and not very prey driven but very food oriented!

Baxter loves stuffed toys and carries them around by their nose. He doesn't want anything to do with balls and does not see the point in fetching. He loves walks, going to the lake, naps and loves to eat! He has a sense of humor and sometimes he will look away, up, and down when we call him before jumping up in the air and running to us smiling and wagging his tail. His favorite places are the hardware store and the bank where he gets as many treats as they are willing to give him. He loves the ferry and the airport. He also enjoys car rides and visiting friends as well as making new friends. Baxter doesn't know that there are any "bad people" in the world, they are all old or new friends to him.

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